

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. A method for accessing a remote service provider across a network through a host service provider, the method comprising the steps of:
- receiving a username and password from a user;
- retrieving data for accessing a remote service provider based at least in part on the received data;
- transmitting said data to the remote service provider; and
- directing the user to the remote service provider.
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2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of connecting to a trusted service provider having special access requirements, wherein
- a trusted service module acts as an intermediary between the host service provider and the trusted service provider.
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3. The method of claim 2, wherein the trusted service module receives a sessionID from the trusted service provider.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the trusted service module places a text file on the user's network data acquisition module.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein said text file comprises a cookie.
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6. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of registering the user with the remote service provider.
7. A system for accessing a remote services provider via a single login to a host service provider, comprising:
- a user system having network data acquisition module;

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a remote service provider;
a host service provider; and
a universal session manager for receiving a user's ID and password and
passing data required for access to said remote services provider.

5 8. The system of claim 7, further comprising a validation database storing
information for accessing the remote service provider

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9. The system of claim 8, said validation database further storing information for
registering the user with the remote services provider.

10 10. The system of claim 7, further comprising a trusted service module that serves as
an intermediary between the host service module and a trusted service provider.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein said trusted service provider is a remote service
provider with special access requirements. 2

12. The system of claim 7, wherein the network data acquisition module is an Internet
browser.

15 13. The system of claim 7, wherein the remote service provider further comprises a
registration module and a login module.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the login module receives the data for gaining
access to the services provided by the remote service provider.

20 15. The system of claim 13, wherein the registration module receives the data for
registering a user with the remote service provider. 6

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